

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /073 W
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R 061130Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1430

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE, GW, VT

SUBJECT: CASAROLI VISIT TO EAST GERMANY

REF: USBERLIN 1077

1. ARCHBISHOP AGOSTINO CASAROLI, VATICAN'S "FOREIGN MINISTER," WILL ARRIVE IN EAST BERLIN JUNE 9 FOR 3-4 DAY VISIT AS GUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER FISHER. DURING HIS STAY, WHICH ALSO WILL INCLUDE TRIP TO ERFURT, CASAROLI WILL STAY IN RELIGIOUS HOUSES. HE HAS TOLD DIPLOMATS HERE THAT HIS VISIT IS TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS AND NOT FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANY MAJOR DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN, CERTAINLY NOT ON QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. TWO PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS OF CERN TO EAST GERMAN CHURCH ARE REDRAWING OF BOUNDARIES OF THREE DIOCESES WHICH ARE PARTLY IN WEST GERMANY AND PARTLY IN EAST, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT EAST GERMAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE, BOTH OF WHICH BEGIN TO LOOK FEASIBLE IN VATICAN EYES IN CONTEXT OF CSCE.

2. CASAROLI HAS TOLD WEST GERMANY EMBASSY TO HOLY SEE THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION TO VISIT WEST BERLIN. EMBASSY SOURCE INFORMED US THAT THEY FEEL CARDINAL BENGSCHE ORIGINALLY PRESSURED CASAROLI TO VISIT BOTH BERLINS IN ORDER TO STRESS CARDINAL'S
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ROLE IN ENTRIE CITY, BUT THAT PRESSURE FROM BONN DISSUADED

CASAROLI FROM VISITING WEST BERLIN, IF HE EVER HAD INTENTION
OF DOING SO.VOLPE

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NNN

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